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| Question | Verse | Spiritual Sense of it |
| **What does Elisha represent?**  | “Now there cried a certain woman . . . unto Elisha” II 4:1 | “**Prophet**. A spiritual seer; disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth.” 593:4  |
| **Widow?** | “Thy servant my husband is dead.” II Kings 4:1 | **Widow** in Hebrew: *almanac*. Occurs 56 times in OTDesperate circumstances; poverty, indebtednessThe poorest of the poor; vulnerableShe is without support and is on the edge, a social and economic tragedyLiving in extreme povertyWould be dependent on her sons. But only if they were old enough to work the land.Prime target of exploitationA widow would have to work on the street as a prostitute if she could find no other source of income.  |
| **Credit to take my two sons** | “. . . the creditor is come to take my two sons to be bondmen.” | **Creditor**: lender; followed by usury or interest; extortioner, borrow on usury or interest. **Bondmen**: slaves; a servant of servants – the lowest servant |
| **What do you have in the house?** | “Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house?” II Kings 4:2 | **House**: consciousness; within; your temple; dwelling place; houseAt first: lack, poverty, fear, material sense evidence of want, limitationThen: faith, hope, expectation of good, trust |
| **What does the pot of oil symbolize?** | “Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil.” II Kings 4:2 | **Handmaid**: a member of the household; a maid, maidservant; addressed Elisha with great humility**Pot**: a small flask**At first the oil was just literal. Hardly anything.****Oil**. Consecration; charity; gentleness; prayer; heavenly inspiration. 592:25 |
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| **What does the vessel symbolize?** | “God, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.” II Kings 4:3 | **borrow**: ask for; enquire; beg; seek; . . . vessels represent vain and worthless beliefs - which are two of the Hebrew meanings of "empty." Elisha told the woman to "borrow thee vessels abroad of all they neighbors," then emphasized "even empty vessels; borrow not a few." It was as if Elisha was telling the woman to search her consciousness for any vain beliefs that needed to be exalted, and that these beliefs, known to be empty and vacuous, when called out for redemption, would prove to be the starting points of "heavenly inspiration" - a springboard for continued growth. So the vessels (to me) stand for our current human sense of things which becomes an agent for redemption as we get a more spiritual sense of God's creation, and this supplies endless opportunity for spiritual understanding. (Brian Webster)**vessel**: proper preparation, receptacle to hold somethingSpiritual thought to prepare it: like the soil for the seedFill it with honesty, meekness, faith, hope, compassion, 2nd degree qualitiesMis. 115:12-15May God enable my students to take up the cross as I have done, and meet the **pressing need of a proper preparation of heart** to prac-tise, teach, and live Christian Science! |
| **What does it mean to “shut the door?” and “pour out”?**  | “And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.” II Kings 4:4 | **Shut the door** on all the material sense evidence.     In order to pray aright, we must enter into the closet and **shut the door.** We must close the lips and silence the material senses. In the quietsanctuary of earnest longings, we must deny sin and plead God’s allness. 15:14**Pour out**: to flow; cast; being firmly established; fearless; to place firmly; to cast metal by pouring it out; **Vessels**: utensil; receptacle; something prepared; completed or prepared;  |
| **Full?** | “And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel.” II Kings 4:6 | **Full:** abundance; accomplished; satisfied; confirmed; completed; overflowing; no vacant places |
| **What does it mean that “the oil stayed?”** | “And the oil stayed.” II Kings 4:6 | **Stayed**: take one’s stand; attend; stand still; tarry; remain; continue; endure; maintain;  |
| **How do we “go, sell, pay debts and live?”** | “And he said, go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest” II Kings 4:7 | **Pay**: *shalam*: make peace with; be in a covenant of peace; live in peace; cause to be in peace; to complete and finish; make whole or good; restore; make amends**Rest**: left over; remainder; excess; have more than enough; abound; to be over and above what is needed |
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